

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Social Services	(2) MEETING DATE 7/16/2013	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Trish Avery Caldwell (805) 781-1831	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve the renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for the Relative Caregiver Program between the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services and Seneca Family of Services (Seneca), in the amount of \$240,838 for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) for the Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$240,838.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Realignment 2011 (100%)	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$240,838	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$240,838	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent <input type="checkbox"/> Presentation <input type="checkbox"/> Hearing (Time Est. ___) <input type="checkbox"/> Board Business (Time Est. ___)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS <input type="checkbox"/> Resolutions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contracts <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinances <input type="checkbox"/> N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) 19001269		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A <input type="checkbox"/> 4/5th's Vote Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY <input type="checkbox"/> N/A Date: <u>6/19/2012</u> , <u>9/25/2012</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW Emily Jackson			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) All Districts -			

County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Social Services/Trish Avery Caldwell
(805) 781-1831

DATE: 7/16/2013

SUBJECT: Request to approve the renewal service contract (Clerk's File) for the Relative Caregiver Program between the County of San Luis Obispo Department of Social Services and Seneca Family of Services (Seneca), in the amount of \$240,838 for Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that your Board approve, and direct the Chairperson to sign, a renewal contract with Seneca Family of Services (Seneca) for the Relative Caregiver Program for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$240,838.

DISCUSSION

In 1997, Assembly Bill 1193 allocated funds to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) to conduct local Kinship Support Services Programs (KSSP). These funds support community-based services to relative caregivers and the court dependent children placed in their homes and to relative caregivers of children who were at risk of court dependency or delinquency. The overall goals of KSSP are to:

- Establish a family support program that provides support services to relatives who provide homes for abused and neglected children/teens who would otherwise enter foster homes or who are at risk of dependency or delinquency.
- Ensure that children/teens maintain family ties.
- Increase a relative caregiver's capacity to obtain and maintain employment by providing supportive services, when appropriate.
- Improve outcomes of children/teens in the homes of their relatives.
- Provide services to children/teens and their relative caregivers to achieve stability, safety and permanency.

Required support services include intervention assistance aimed at maintaining the kinship family unit, transportation for medical care, education and recreational activities, referral services, counseling, tutoring/mentoring for children and teens, and collecting and reporting KSSP data to CDSS. Also included are post permanency services to relative caregivers who became the legal guardian or adoptive parent of formerly dependent children.

The County had been contracting with the Kinship Center (Kinship) to provide relative caregiver services since FY 2006-2007. However effective July 1, 2011, Kinship merged with Seneca Family of Agencies (Seneca) to expand their vision of supporting children and families. Seneca began providing services in 1985 and is a leading innovator in the field of community-based and family-focused treatment services for children and families that includes a continuum of care ranging from intensive residential treatment, to in-home wraparound services, to public school-based services. Seneca credits their success upon the agency's commitment to five core service

principles:

- Unconditional Care
- Parent-Driven, Strength-Based Service Planning
- Individualized Care
- Cultural Competence
- Interagency Collaboration

Seneca is dedicated to being a “system of care” agency that meets the multiple needs of children and families.

Specifically, the County partners with Seneca to connect children to safe, permanent relative caregivers that will support the child or youth for life. This objective is achieved through the Family Ties Relative Caregiver program which is offered at the Kinship Center in Northern San Luis Obispo County (Templeton). Most of the children served in this program have significant physical, emotional or developmental challenges, or suffer from past trauma. The Family Ties program offers specific hands-on support and education to relative caregivers to deal with the day-to-day needs of these children and youth. With the support of Family Ties staff, relative caregivers are able to manage family transitions and access essential community resources. Seneca collaborates with the County Department of Social Services (DSS) to assist families that have illustrated a desire for support and services that will result in a reduction in foster care re-entry rates by establishing stronger family ties and supports. For more information about services offered by Seneca Family of Agencies, including kinship services, you may visit their website at <http://www.senecacenter.org>.

If approved, Seneca through the Kinship Center will continue to provide the Family Ties relative Caregiver program county-wide that offers community-based and family-focused services. The program provides monetary and emotional supports to local relative caregivers and the children placed in their home. Services include parent support groups; parent education; home visits; children’s activity groups during support groups and education workshops, while also linking the social worker and other agency staff involved in the family case. The goals of all these services are to support children in relative placements by building the capacity of relative caregivers to meet their health, financial, social, emotional, and child rearing challenges.

The Family Ties Relative Caregiver program achieves the outcomes of Assembly Bill 636 (AB 636), the Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act (better known as the System Improvement Plan or SIP), which focuses on continuous improvement, interagency partnerships, community involvement and public reporting outcomes. These services support the Department and County goal of ensuring all people in the community enjoy healthy, successful and productive lives, and have access to the basic necessities.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT

The County has worked directly with Seneca to assess DSS and community needs and County Counsel has reviewed and approved the contract as to legal form and effect.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

On June 19, 2012, by Agenda Item No 47 your Board approved the original FY 12-13 Family Ties Relative Caregiver contract with Seneca in the amount of \$170,170. The contract was funded 100% by State Realignment 2011 funds. On September 25, 2012, by Agenda Item 15 your Board approved Amendment One (1) which added \$70,668 to pay for a case manager to handle the higher case management staffing needs due to the larger number of families being served than originally anticipated. This brought the budgeted contract amount for FY 2012-2013 to \$240,838.

The total cost of the contract for FY 2013-2014 is \$240,838 for the term of the contract. Seneca services are funded by State Realignment 2011 funds. The cost of this contract is included in the Department’s adopted budget for FY 2013-2014, will require no additional General Fund contribution and includes no increases attributable to a Consumer Price Index (CPI) or Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA).

Agency	Budgeted FY 12-13	Amended FY 12-13	Budgeted FY 13-14	Notes	Funding Allocations			
					Fed	St	C o	Realignment 2011
Seneca	\$170,170	\$240,838	\$240,838	Family Ties Relative Caregiver Program				100%

RESULTS

As of March 31, 2013, a total of seventy six (76) relative caregiver families received Family Ties services. It is anticipated that the number of families served will be higher by the end of the contract year.

FY 2012-2013

Performance outcomes approved on the original contract were revised and increased on September 25, 2012, as a result of the Amendment One (1) approval. Based on the amendment it was anticipated that a total of fifty (50) relative caregivers and sixty (60) children/teens would receive services. Supportive services for these families also increased as indicated by the below performance outcomes listed.

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of providing case management services to at least fifty (50) relative caregivers and sixty (60) children/teens in the Northern Region of SLO County that resulted in at least ninety percent (90%) of children remaining in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver. As of March 31, 2013, a total of seventy six (76) families, including one hundred twenty nine (129) children/teens received case management services. The numbers include thirteen (13) new families and twenty (20) new children/youth. Of the families served fourteen (14) cases closed for the following reasons: four (4) children moved out of town with placement family; three (3) children return to birth parent(s); three (3) children were stable and no longer needed services; three (3) moved into placement with another relative and were no longer requesting services; one (1) child was placed into foster care. A total of ninety eight percent (98%) remained in a permanent placement with a relative caregiver.

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome to produce a newsletter quarterly (total of 4). As of March 31, 2013, a total of nineteen (19) newsletters and thirty (30) flyers/announcements were produced and distributed. The Kinship Center produces monthly flyers/announcements in addition to a newsletter as monthly flyers/announcements have historically produced higher involvement with the families that Kinship serves. It is anticipated that the number of newsletters/flyers produced will be higher by the end of the contract year.

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of assisting at least forty (40) families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, oven, refrigerator, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families. As of March 31, 2013, Kinship Center distributed over five hundred (500) food boxes, helped eight (8) families with furniture, helped forty two (42) families that needed clothing, and eighty three (83) families with other needs like transportation, adoption and guardian expenses, and gas. It is anticipated that the number of supportive services provided will be higher by the end of the contract.

Seneca exceeded the performance outcome of organizing and facilitating at least thirty (30) caregiver support groups for relative caregivers, with children’s activity groups concurrently held. As of March 31, 2013, a total of thirty-two (32) support groups were organized and facilitated. It is anticipated that this number will be higher by the end of the contract.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least ten (10) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP. As of March 31, 2013, a total of eight (8) presentations were given to community partners in SLO County. Presentations included: Martha’s Place, Paso Robles Community Collaborative, Foster Parent Association [(3): “Welcome Home”, Individual Donors, “Old Fashion Christmas”], and Cuesta College, (2). It is anticipated that at least two (2) additional presentations will be made by the end of the contract.

FY 2014-2015

Seneca will provide case management services to at least fifty (50) relative caregivers and sixty (60) children/teens in the Northern Region of SLO County.

Seneca will produce newsletters quarterly and distribute to identify caregivers and partner agencies.

Seneca will assist at least forty (40) families with food and basic household needs (beds, furniture, ovens, refrigerators, etc.) to help stabilize relative caretaker families.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least thirty (30) caregiver support groups for relative caregivers, with children's activity groups concurrently held.

Seneca will organize and facilitate at least ten (10) presentations to the public about the support services of KSSP.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Seneca Clerk's File Statement